

Urban Community Service Program (CFDA No. 84.252)

I. Legislation

Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, Title XI, Part A, as amended, (20 U.S.C. 1136) (expires September 30, 1997).

II. Funding History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
1992	\$8,000,000	1995	\$10,000,000
1993	9,424,000	1996	9,200,000
1994	10,606,000		

III. Analysis of Program Performance

A. Goals and Objectives

The goal of this program is to encourage urban academic institutions to work with private and civic organizations to devise and implement solutions to pressing problems in their urban communities.

B. Strategies to Achieve the Goals

Population Targeting

Institutions of higher education that are designated as "urban grant institutions" are eligible to apply for a grant. In designating eligible institutions, the Secretary determines whether an institution meets seven statutory requirements that demonstrate the institution's ability to meet the purpose of this program. The requirements include measures of institutional capacity, past service, and commitment to the community. The Higher Education Amendments of 1992 expanded the definition of an urban area to include metropolitan areas with a population of 350,000 and above; previously the standard was 500,000 and above.

Services Supported

Participating institutions may engage in planning, applied research, training, resource exchanges or technology transfers, delivery of services, or other activities to design and implement programs to help urban communities address their pressing problems. Projects of from one to five years are currently in effect. In FY 1995 an average of \$312,500 was awarded to 32 institutions of higher education, in FY 1996 an average of \$317,241 was awarded for 29 continuation grants. No new grants were awarded in FY 1996.

Eligible urban academic institutions compete for grants on an annual basis when funds are available. An institution may not receive a grant individually or as a participant in a consortium of institutions for more than five years. Grants are awarded in a manner that achieves an equitable geographic distribution of grants throughout the nation. Applicants that propose to conduct joint projects supported by other local, state, and federal programs receive funding priority.

The Department conducts site visits to ascertain project compliance and provide individualized assistance. A technical assistance conference was conducted in FY 1994 to assist grantees with issues pertaining to grant administration and evaluation and dissemination of project results. Currently, the grantees and the Department are electronically linked via a list server.

C. Program Performance—Indicators of Impact and Effectiveness

The program office is currently developing the performance indicators that will be used to assess the program's performance. See also Office-Wide Performance Indicators for the Office of Postsecondary Education displayed in the Overview (OPS) to the postsecondary education programs.

IV. Sources of Information

Program files.

V. Planned Studies

None.

VI. Contacts for Further Information

Program Operations: Sarah Babson, (202) 260-3472

Program Studies: James Maxwell, (202) 401-3630